

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 and 35-38 are pending in the subject application. In the outstanding Examiner's Action, Claims 16-28 have been allowed. Claim 15 has been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,314,869 to Dobin. In view of the rejection of Claim 15, Claims 35-38 which depend from Claim 15 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species. Applicants acknowledge allowance of Claims 16-28 with appreciation and traverse the rejection of Claim 15 for the following reasons.

Claim 15 has been amended above to recite a step of providing a thiourea-free and cyanide-free etching bath. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 2, line 19. Dobin does not disclose a process for etching gold that employs a cyanide-free etching bath. Accordingly, the process of Claim 15 is novel over Dobin. Furthermore, Dobin does not suggest the use of a thiourea-free and cyanide-free etching bath in a process for etching gold. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the subject matter of Claim 15 is novel and nonobvious over Dobin. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

In view of the allowable condition of Claim 15, Claims 35-38 which depend from generic Claim 15 should be allowed.

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If the reviewing party has any questions regarding the above he is invited to call Applicants attorney at the number listed below so that any outstanding issues can be resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

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